Amendments to the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

storing a description of a first frame wherein said description comprises:

(1) a frame length; and

(2) a first transmission rate;

receiving a first portion of said first frame, said first portion having a first length less than said frame length, said first length based on said first transmission rate;

queuing said first portion of said first frame;

initiating a transmission of ~~transmitting~~ said first portion of said first frame at said first transmission rate into a shared-communications channel; and

in response to said initiation of said transmission of said first portion, receiving a second portion of said first frame ~~after said transmission of said first portion has started~~.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein said description further comprises ~~a second transmission rate and~~ at least one form of modulation.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein said at least one form of modulation comprises orthogonal frequency division multiplexing.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising queuing said second portion of said first frame, said second portion having a second length less than said frame length, said second length based on said first transmission rate and a time required to receive said second portion.

5. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:

an interface controller for [[:]]

[[(1)]] receiving a first portion of a first frame [[; and]]

~~(2) receiving a second portion of said first frame;~~

a memory for:

(1) storing a description of said first frame wherein said description comprises a frame length and a first transmission rate; and

(2) queuing said first portion of said first frame in a queue having a size based on said first transmission rate and a time required to receive said first portion; and

a transmitter for transmitting said first portion of said first frame at said first transmission rate into a shared communications channel, wherein said interface controller receives a second portion of said first frame in response to said transmitter initiating said transmitting of said first portion.

6. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 5 wherein said description further comprises ~~a second transmission rate and~~ at least one form of modulation.

7. (Original) The apparatus of claim 6 wherein said at least one form of modulation comprises orthogonal frequency division multiplexing.

8. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 5 wherein said memory is also for queuing said second portion of said first frame, said second portion having a length less than said frame length, said length based on said first transmission rate and a time required to receive said second portion.

9. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 5 wherein said transmitter operates in accordance with IEEE 802.11 air interface protocol.

10. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

storing a first and second description wherein each of said ~~first~~ descriptions comprises a frame length~~:~~

~~(1) a first frame length; and~~

~~(2) a first transmission rate~~;

queuing a first portion of a first frame and a first portion of a second frame in a first and second queue, respectively, wherein said first portions are less than a full frame;

transmitting said first ~~a queued~~ portion of said [[a]] first frame ~~at said first transmission rate~~ into a shared-communications channel;

~~removing said queued portion of said first frame wherein said removal is based on said first frame length;~~

in response to said transmitting of said first portion of said first frame, queuing a second portion of said first frame;

~~storing a second description wherein said second description comprises:~~

~~(1) a second frame length; and~~

~~(2) a second transmission rate;~~

~~queuing a first portion of a second frame, said first portion having a first length less than said second frame length, said first length based on said first transmission rate;~~ and

transmitting said first portion of said second frame ~~at said second transmission rate~~ into said shared-communications channel after completion of said transmission of said first frame.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 10 wherein said first description further comprises a first transmission rate, wherein said second description further comprises a second transmission rate, and wherein said first transmission rate and said second transmission rate are different.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Previously Presented) An apparatus comprising:

a memory for:

(1) storing a first description wherein said first description comprises a first frame length and a first transmission rate;

(2) storing a second description wherein said second description comprises a second frame length and a second transmission rate; [[and]]

(3) queuing a portion of a first frame; and

[[(3)]](4) queuing a first portion of a second frame, said first portion having a first length less than said second frame length, said first length based on said first transmission rate;

a transmitter for:

(1) transmitting said [[a]] queued portion of said [[a]] first frame at said first transmission rate into a shared-communications channel; and

(2) transmitting said first portion of said second frame at said second transmission rate into said shared communications channel;

a receiver for:

(1) receiving the first frame; and

(2) receiving said first portion of said second frame in response to said

transmitting of said queued portion of said first frame; and

a processor for removing said first description and said queued portion of said first frame wherein said removal is based on said first frame length.

14. (Original) The apparatus of claim 13 wherein said first transmission rate and said second transmission rate are different.

15. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 13 wherein said memory is also for queuing a second portion of said second frame, said second portion having a second length less than said second frame length, said second length based on said second transmission rate.

16. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 13 wherein said transmitter operates in accordance with IEEE 802.11 air interface protocol.

17. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

storing a first description of a first frame wherein said first description comprises:

(1) a first frame length;

(2) a first transmission rate; and

(3) a first class of service associated with said first frame;

queuing a first portion of said first frame in a first queue wherein said first portion of said first frame comprises m octets, wherein m is a positive integer with a value based on said first transmission rate;

transmitting said first portion of said first frame at said first transmission rate into a shared-communications channel;

receiving a second portion of said first frame in response to said transmitting of said first

portion of said first frame ~~after said transmission of said first portion has started~~;

storing a second description of a second frame after said storing of said first description wherein said second description comprises:

(1) a second frame length;

(2) a second transmission rate; and

(3) a second class of service associated with said second;

queuing a portion of said second frame wherein said portion of said second frame comprises n octets, wherein n is a positive integer with a value based on said second transmission rate; and

transmitting said portion of said second frame at said second transmission rate into said shared-communications channel.

18. (Original) The method of claim 17 wherein said first transmission rate and said second transmission rate are different.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17 further comprising queuing a second portion of said second frame, said second portion having a length less than said second frame length, said length based on said second transmission rate.

20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17 wherein said transmitting is performed in accordance with IEEE 802.11 air interface protocol.

21. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:

means for storing a first description of a first frame wherein said description comprises:

(1) a frame length; and

(2) a first transmission rate;

means for receiving a first portion of said first frame, said first portion having a first length less than said frame length, said first length based on said first transmission rate;

means for queuing said first portion of said first frame;

means for transmitting said first portion of said first frame at said first transmission rate into a shared-communications channel; and

means for receiving a second portion of said first frame in response to said transmitting of said first portion ~~after said transmission of said first portion has started~~.

22. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 21 wherein said first description further comprises ~~a second transmission rate and~~ at least one form of modulation.

23. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 21 further comprising means for queuing said second portion of said first frame, said second portion having a second length less than said frame length, said second length based on said first transmission rate.

24. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 23 further comprising means for transmitting said second portion of said first frame at said first transmission rate into said shared-communications channel.

25. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 21 further comprising:

means for storing a second description of a second frame wherein said description comprises:

(1) a second frame length; and

(2) a second transmission rate; and

means for receiving a first portion of said second frame, said first portion having a second length less than said second frame length, said second length based on said second transmission rate.

26. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 25 further comprising means for queuing said first portion of said second frame.

27. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 26 further comprising means for transmitting said first portion of said second frame at said second transmission rate into said shared-communications channel.

28. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 25 wherein said first transmission rate and said second transmission rate are different.

29. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 21 wherein said means for transmitting operates in accordance with IEEE 802.11 air interface protocol.